

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2005

Honorable Peter Hoekstra, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
H-405 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Jane Harman, Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
H-405 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

We write today to ask that you conduct an oversight investigation into the reports made by the *New York Times* stating that the President Bush authorized the National Security Agency (NSA) to investigate American citizens without judicial approval.

According to a Friday, December 16, 2005 *New York Times* article, the President directed the NSA, in 2002, to monitor the international communications of American citizens and others living in the United States. Prior to this Administration, the NSA was tasked with investigating foreign people and entities on foreign soil. However, since this order, hundreds, possibly thousands, of Americans have had their telephone calls and emails monitored with little to no oversight.

These actions appear to have been conducted without any judicial oversight. If true, granting the NSA the authority to spy on American citizens without legal review is very troublesome. If truly warranted, these searches could have been accomplished by obtaining warrants from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. However, in what has become a disturbing trend, the Administration, again, chose to bypass any and all entities that could restrain what they apparently believe should be unfettered power and authority.

The Fourth Amendment clearly states "*The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.*" We strongly believe that spying on American citizens clearly violates this bedrock principle of our government and our nation as a whole.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence investigate this situation and work to ensure that it does not occur in the future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

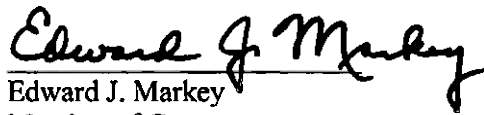
Sincerely,



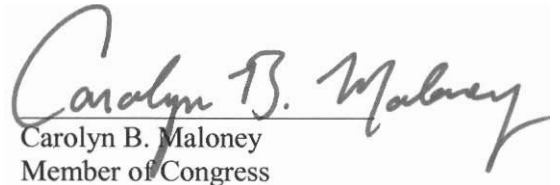
Tom Udall
Member of Congress



Lane Evans
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

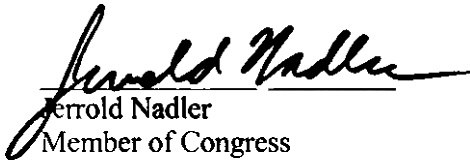


Brian Baird
Member of Congress

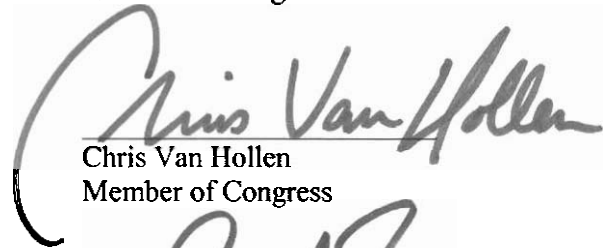
Member of Congress



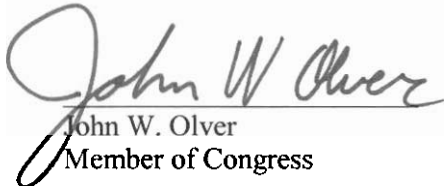
Ed Case
Member of Congress



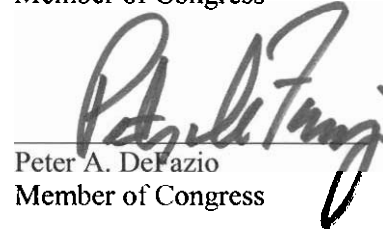
Ferrel Nadler
Member of Congress



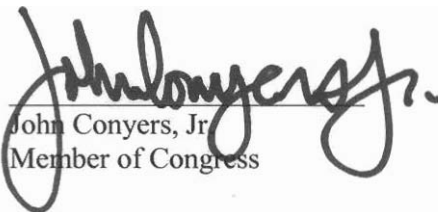
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



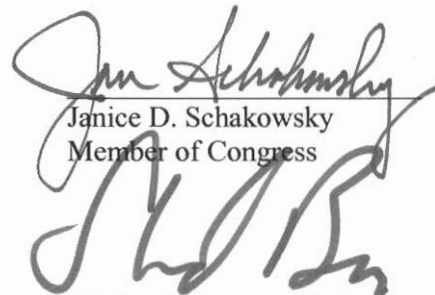
John W. Olver
Member of Congress



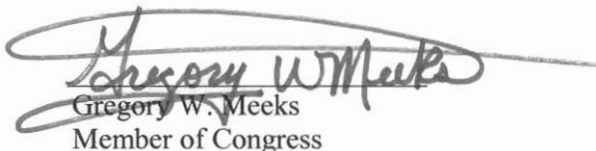
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



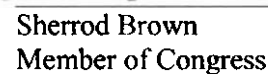
John Conyers, Jr.
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Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



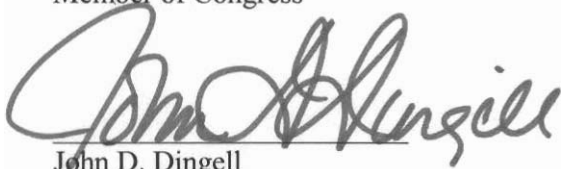
Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress



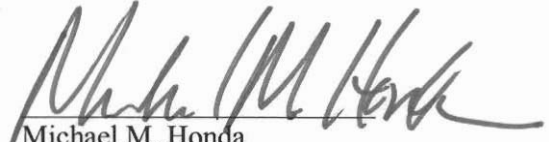
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



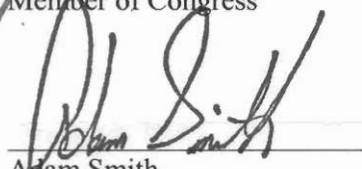
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



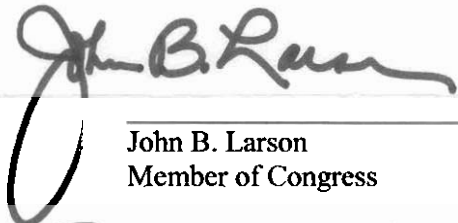
John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



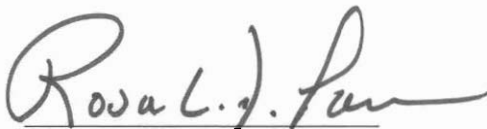
Michael M. Honda
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Adam Smith
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
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Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



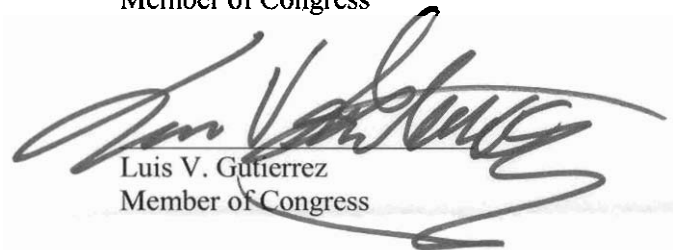
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Bernard Sanders
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Martin T. Meehan
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Luis V. Gutierrez
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Ron Kind
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Barbara Lee
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